web stop **11**, which extends a short distance beyond the terminus of the slots towards the outer ends of the fingers **12** and **13**.

Disposed upon the rod **4** and slidable thereupon is an inner tubular member **18** which is coaxial and rotatable with this rod. This inner member extends longitudinally of and around the rod and a portion thereof projects in through the open end **14** of the outer shell **9**. A small diameter portion **19** is joined to an intermediate portion **20** which, in turn, is joined to a large diameter portion **21** to form the inner tubular member. As shown in FIGURE 1, the small diameter portion **19** and most of the intermediate portion **20** extend through the open end **14** of the outer shell when the roller is arranged for the short length with the large diameter portion **21** remaining outside the outer shell. For the long length (FIGURE 6), most of the small diameter portion **19** is within the outer shell and the intermediate and large diameter portions are outside the open end. The juncture of the small diameter and intermediate portions forms a shoulder **22** as does the connection of the intermediate and large diameter portions to form a shoulder **22***a*.

The diameter of this large portion **21** is substantially that of the outer shell **9** and is such that it permits the conventional nap-covered cylinder to be slid on and off the roller and yet have such a fit thereupon that the cylinder rotates with the roller and not independently thereof. Generally, the peripheral dimension of the outer shell **9** and large diameter portion **21** is that which accommodates a paint roller whose inside diameter ranges between 1.40" and 1.75". The radially outwardly inclining fingers **12** and **13** of the outer shell, together with a movable ring **23** disposed upon the small diameter portion **19**, cooperate to hold the nap-covered cylinder upon the roller. This ring extends from the small diameter portion **19** to engagement with the inside of the fingers and is slidable along the the small diameter portion **19** to urge and/or maintain the fingers radially apart and thereby maintain the cylinder for rotation with the roller. By moving the ring longitudinally upon the small diameter portion **19**, the fingers **12** and **13** can be adjustably spread radially apart to accommodate different sized nap-covered cylinders.

This small diameter portion **19** has that end **28** opposite the shoulder **22** open and formed by two fingers **24** and **25** spaced apart to define slots **26** and **27** which are open at the end **28**. The two fingers **26** and **27** extend inwardly from the end **28** to a connection with a cylinder part **29** and there form a slot terminus **30**.

The inner member **18** is both slidable upon and rotatable about the rod **4** and also is rotatable with this rod. Convertibility of the roller from a first length to a second length includes sliding the inner member **18** longitudinally upon the rod **4**, followed by rotating the inner member about the rod. For example, to convert the roller from the short length of FIGURE 1 to the long length of FIGURE 6, the inner member **18** is moved to the right, viewing FIGURE 1, longitudinally of the rod **4** until the shoulder **22** engages a stop washer **31** disposed upon the axle **2**, located between the end **32** of the rod **4** and the nut **7** and abutting both the end **32** and the nut **7** and functioning as a second stop to locate the inner member **18** for the long length. Then, the inner member is turned about 90° around the rod **4** to bring the slots **26** and **27** out of alignment with the web stop **11** and to position two diametrically opposed notches **33** and **34** at the open end **28** and formed by two pairs of spaced apart lips **35** and **36** into position opposite the web stop which is received in the two notches. Thus, the small diameter portion of the inner member has a length substantially equal to that between web stop **11** and the stop washer **31**.

Located upon a seat **37** in the bore of the stop washer **31**, and disposed around the axle, is a coil spring **38** which extends into engagement with the nut **7**. This spring is under compression through engagement with the nut **7** and it permits the inner member **1** to be moved to the position of FIGURE 6 where the web stop **11** is received in the two notches **33** and **34**. In the position of FIGURE 6, the spring exerts a force to urge and maintain the inner member into and at the long length position with the web stop **11** in the notches **33** and **34**, and also exerts pressure upon the stop washer and, in turn, upon the inner member **18** to resist rotation of the inner member about the rod **4**.

To convert the roller from its long length (FIGURE 6) to the short one (FIGURE 1), the inner member **18** is pulled to the right, viewing FIGURE 6, against the force of the spring **38** to disengage the pairs of lips **35** and **36** and the notches **33** and **34** from the web stop **11** and then is rotated about the rod **4** to align the slots **26** and **27** with the web stop **11**. Next, the inner member is pushed longitudinally along the rod and in through the open end **14** of the outer shell **9** with the web stop in the slots **26** and **27** until the slot termini **30** engage the web stop **11** to form the short length.

Spaced apart around the interior surface of the small diameter portion of the inner member are longitudinally extending ribs **39** which engage the periphery of the rod **4** and resist both longitudinal movement of the inner member upon the rod and rotational movement thereof about the rod **4**. Thus, these ribs assist to maintain the inner member in the position of FIGURE 1.

An end cap **40** has a snap-fit connection with the outer end of the large diameter portion **21** of the inner member **18** to cover the nut and the stop washer and thereby protect same from paint.

My roller has important advantages which include easy convertibility between a short length and a long length and thereby avoidance of need for a second roller. Additionally, the roller has ability to firmly hold the conventional nap-covered sleeves of both long and short lengths through cooperation of the outwardly inclining fingers **12** and **13** and the ring **23**.

While I have shown and described a preferred embodiment of my invention, it may be otherwise embodied within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A roller for receiving and rotatably supporting a sleeve which applies paint and the like onto a surface, said roller comprising a rod adapted for mounting upon an axle and for rotation about its longitudinal axis upon said axle, said rod carrying an outer substantially tubular shell member having a portion which extends longitudinally over a portion of said rod, said outer shell extending in substantially the same direction as said rod and including at least two spaced apart fingers whose outer ends are free and form an open end of said shell member, said fingers extending inwardly from their outer ends to form two slots therebetween and to connection with that portion of said outer shell member which includes the other end thereof, a first stop member positioned inwardly from the outer ends of said fingers and extending between said rod and an inner wall of said outer shell member, an inner substantially tubular member with a portion telescoped inside a part of said outer tubular member and around said rod, a second stop member spaced apart from said first stop member and disposed closer to said open end of said outer shell member than said first stop member, said inner tubular member extending substantially longitudinally of and in engagement with a part of said rod, being rotatable therewith, and having a slot which is open at one end of said inner tubular member and which runs inwardly from said one end to a slot terminus, said portion of said inner tubular member including said slot thereof extending into said open end of said outer tubular member and being slidably disposed upon said rod from a first position whereat said first stop member engages said slot terminus of said